

STAFFING / FUNDRAISING & COVID-19



HEBRIDES ALPHA PROJECT

SUPPORTED ACCOMMODATION
ISSUE 7 - JANUARY 2021

STAFFING

2020 was a year of major change in the staffing department with the two longest serving staff members leaving. Shona Macleod, the unit manager and the visionary for the project left for pastures new and words will not adequately describe the sense of loss this has been for the project but also for Shona herself. The greatest compliment which could be paid to Shona is that we have never met anyone in our lives who poured out love like her. We have never witnessed someone so sacrificial with her time and energies for the good of others. Shona taught us how to love the people and see past the addiction. Shona will always be "the boss" to us, a fantastic manager, colleague, friend and sister.

Jean Richie, support worker, retired towards the end of 2020 and also leaves a huge gap. Between herself and Shona there was twenty years experience lost from the staff team. Jean will be missed by all for her gentle nature and ability to come alongside the broken with words of deep comfort and actions to match. A wonderful person with a massive heart for those who have found themselves in difficult times.

The two replacement staff members are Mr Aonghas Mackenzie and Mrs Carol Maclean. Mr David Graham has become Acting Manager, with Mr Stephen MacDougall taking over as Acting Deputy Manager.

FUNDRAISING

10 men took to the Harris hills, to raise funds for the project, towards the end of 2020 in a socially distanced trek along the Sron Ulladale stalkers path. Their efforts have raised nearly £6000, for which we are incredibly grateful. The walkers were Norman "Baco", Kenny "Brue", Daniel Stewart, Jonathan Maciver, Davie Chisholm, Aonghas Mackenzie, Shaun "leftie", Kenny "the mountain goat" Smith, Roddy Cunningham and acting unit manager David Graham.

It was a fantastic day out as can be seen in the photographs.



10 MEN TOOK TO THE HARRIS HILLS...

COVID-19

2020 was a difficult year worldwide and this was true at the Project also. Covid-19 impacted heavily on one of the key areas of recovery which is community. The groups and meetings, tea rooms and coffee houses became a distant memory. Digital platforms, although helpful, are no substitute for face-to-face contact. We pray that 2021 will enable us to be part of each other's lives via traditional means once more.

There was also a financial cost during the year, as we were seeking to use the smaller house for isolating our residents on entry to the project, which meant we needed to leave one room empty in a two-bed accommodation. We thank all our residents for the patience they have shown through the pandemic and the changing regulations.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.hebridesalphaproject.org

For all the latest information on Hebrides Alpha Project pay us a visit.

You can also like us on Facebook.



SHONA MACLEOD



JEAN RICHIE



MR AONGHAS MACKENZIE



MRS CAROL MACLEAN

48B UPPER COLL, BACK
ISLE OF LEWIS
HS2 OLT
Tel: 01851 820830
Email: manager@hebridesalpha.co.uk
Web: www.hebridesalphaproject.org

<https://www.facebook.com/HebridesAlphaProject/>

"Till now the Lord has helped us"
(1 Sam 7:12)



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- EXPRESSION OF THANKS
- OCCUPANCY AND OUTCOMES
- STAFFING AND FUNDING
- COVID-19

EXPRESSION OF THANKS DAVID GRAHAM - ACTING MANAGER



We are very grateful indeed to every funding body, individual, family member or group who have encouraged us and financed us during this year. Special thanks need to go to the WIHB Alcohol and Drug Partnership, the Point and Sandwick Windfarm Trust, The Hope Trust, the Corra Foundation, SSEN, CNES and every person who has given us a regular Gift Aid contribution or been involved in a community fundraising event. We appreciate this help very much indeed. We would like to thank everyone who generously and at times sacrificially gave to us through monthly donations or indirectly through churches or other settings. We also received gifts of food, toiletries, and other items at Christmas time from churches and church groups locally and as always, this was very much appreciated.

Our Board of Directors (Rev Tommy MacNeil, Mrs Finella Morrison, and Mr Alex MacDonald) join us in thanking all of you and our external advisors Mr Calum MacDonald (CIB Services) and Ms Claire MacLeod (Orbit Agency) for their services.

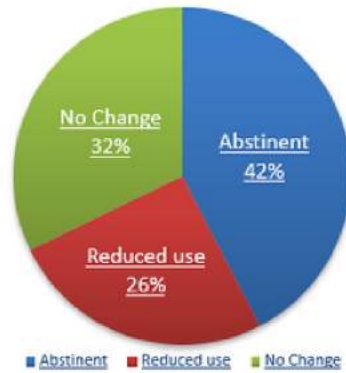
We are very grateful indeed to the Community Alcohol Nurse, Mrs Chris Mina Morrison who goes above and beyond continually, to Alasdair Allan MSP, to the staff at Hebrides Alpha Trading, to Alcoholics Anonymous members and groups, to the Road to Recovery groups, The Shed Project, the Ark meeting and to all the churches who supported us this year. The Hebridean Housing Partnership, CNES Homeless Service and Benefits Service plus the Job Centre staff have all been exceptionally helpful this year. Thanks also go to the CNES Faire Service, the Food Bank, and the Fareshare scheme through Tesco Stornoway. All the above contribute essentially to the supported accommodation service and to the recovery of our residents. Thank you very much indeed.

OCCUPANCY AND OUTCOMES 10 YEARS ON NOV 2011-OCT 2020

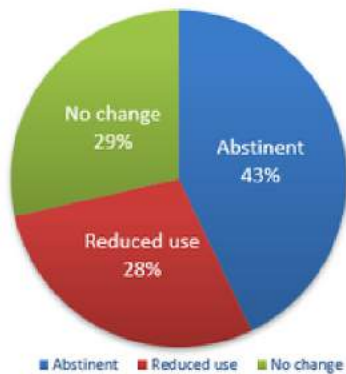
OCCUPANCY AND OUTCOMES 10 YEARS ON

CONTINUED

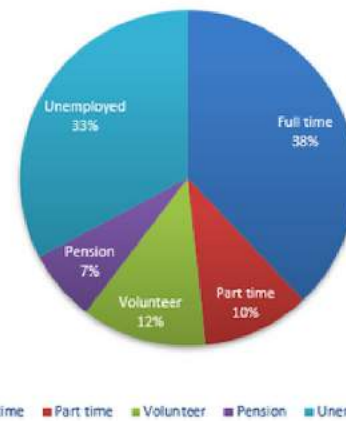
MALE - OUTCOMES



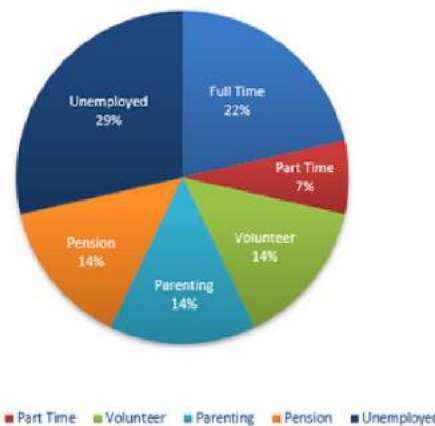
FEMALE - OUTCOMES



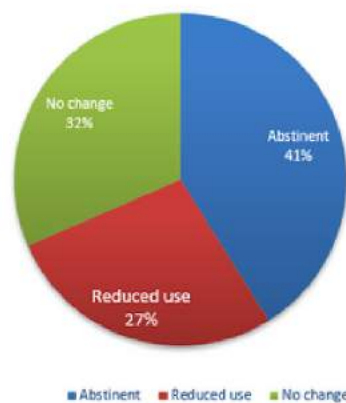
MALE EMPLOYMENT AFTER SERVICE INVOLVEMENT



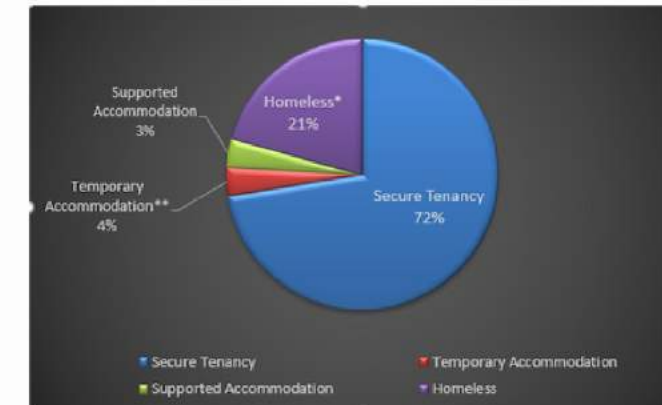
FEMALE EMPLOYMENT AFTER SERVICE INVOLVEMENT



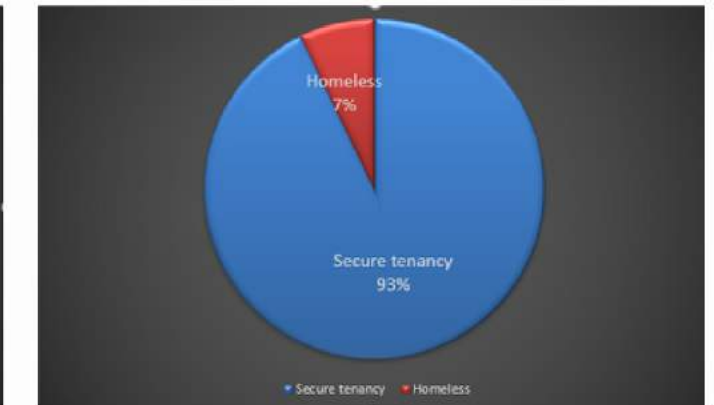
COMBINED SERVICE USERS OUTCOMES



MALE HOUSING AFTER SERVICE INVOLVEMENT



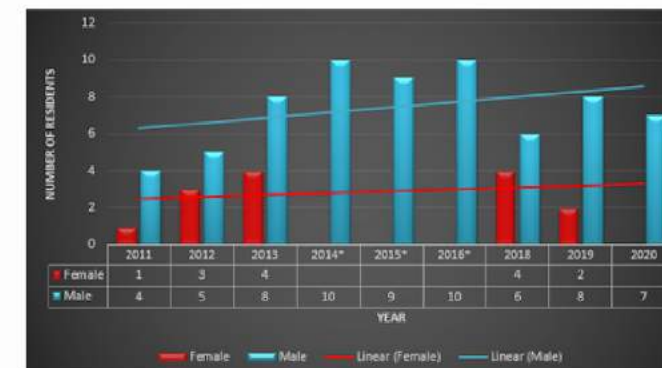
FEMALE HOUSING AFTER SERVICE INVOLVEMENT



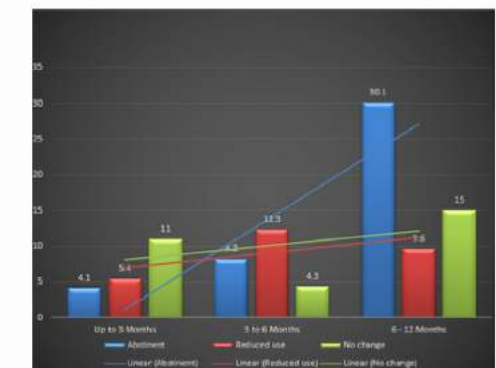
*The figure for homelessness is clients without their own tenancy who have relapsed to substance use. This does not mean they are without shelter but rather shows the individuals who are housed in the Acres Homeless accommodation, Stornoway.

**Those marked as being in temporary accommodation have completed the program and are abstinent. They have been housed in temporary homeless accommodation which is not the Acres to aid their continued recovery whilst waiting on a secure tenancy.

OCCUPANCY 2011-2020



LENGTH OF STAY - OUTCOMES PERCENTAGE



9 Year average is 10 Residents per year with an increased need shown over this time for both male and female clients. *2014/15/16 There were no female referrals for much of this time which meant the 2 Bed women's accommodation was used for the many male referrals over this time.

AVERAGE AGE ON ENTRY TO PROJECT

Average Female Age = 48.2
Average Male age = 48.5
Oldest Resident = 73
Youngest resident = 18

